

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 92-054-C - ORDER NO. 92-210  
MARCH 23, 1992

IN RE: Application of Augusta Metronet ) ORDER GRANTING  
for Extension of its Cellular ) EXTENSION OF  
Service Area. ) CELLULAR SERVICE AREA

On January 16, 1992, Augusta Metronet (the Company or the Applicant) filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) requesting approval of extension of its service area into certain portions of Barnwell County. The Applicant currently provides cellular telecommunications service to the Augusta MSA, which includes counties within South Carolina, and has been granted interim authority by the Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) to extend its service into Rural Service Area (RSA) No. 7, which adjoins the Augusta MSA. The Application states that the extension of this service area will cease with the expiration of its interim F.C.C. authority. The Company's application was filed pursuant to S.C. CODE ANN. §58-11-120 (1976), as amended, and/or R.103-821 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

By letter, the Commission's Executive Director instructed the Company to publish a prepared Notice of Filing, in newspapers of general circulation, in the affected areas, one time, and to

provide the Commission's Executive Director with proof of publication. The Notice of Filing indicated the nature of the Company's application and advised all interested parties desiring participation in the scheduled proceeding of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings. The Applicant filed the proper Affidavits of Publication.

The Applicant also filed with this Commission a Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) document, indicating that it has received interim authority from the FCC to provide service to the South Carolina RSA No. 7.

No Petitions to Intervene or Protests were received with regard to this filing. The Company moved for Commission consideration of the Application without hearing. This motion is granted.

The Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Company is a Georgia corporation and is a wholly owned subsidiary of GTE Mobile Communications Incorporated, a Delaware Corporation.

2. Applicant is currently certified by this Commission to provide Cellular Radio Telecommunications services in the Augusta Metropolitan Statistical Area. See Order No. 88-610, Docket No. 88-143-C issued January 22, 1988. That, according to the Exhibits filed with the Application, Augusta Metronet does not propose the

relocation or addition of any new cell site, but merely an increase in power and addition on one antenna at an existing cell site for the provision of cellular service in the area sought.

3. Applicant has now been granted interim authority by the F.C.C. to extend service into a Rural Service Area which adjoins the Augusta MSA where Applicant is the non-wireline cellular provider. The basis for the F.C.C. application was that there is currently no non-wireline carrier licensed to provide service in the adjoining RSA and that Applicant can extend service into this RSA with a minimum of expense. The authority received from the F.C.C. is interim authority only and would expire when a non-wireline carrier is licensed for the RSA.

4. The extension of service sought by Applicant extends only to a portion of RSA 7. The proposed extension would be only for a portion of Barnwell County.

5. The F.C.C. has already approved the Company's application for interim authority at the Federal level.

6. The extension of service area as requested by the Company should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:


1. That the Application of Augusta Metronet for an extension of its cellular service area on an interim basis into the indicated portions of Barnwell County in RSA No. 7 is hereby granted.

2. That the grant of authority is on an interim basis only, and will expire when the F.C.C. licenses a permanent non-wireline carrier for the RSA.

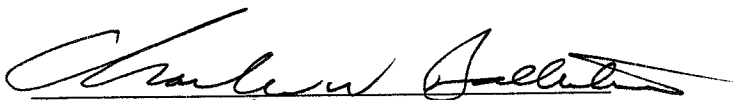
3. That Augusta Metronet is required to comply with the contingencies associated with its F.C.C. interim authority.

4. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)